

Appl. No. 09/935,896
Amdt. dated December 15, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of 10/30/06

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REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, and 3-8 are rejected while Claim 2 is objected to. During the telephone interview with the Examiner, claim 1 was discussed and in particular the words "outer shaped portion" and "shaped portion with a preselected shape". Examiner Jimenez indicated that claim 1 would be allowable if "outer shaped portion" was changed to "diffuser passage", "shaped portion with a preselected shape" was changed to "diffuser shaped portion" and also that the claim was clarified to indicate that the nonoriginal coating was removed only from the diffuser passage of the cooling holes. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claim 1 and discussing this matter during the interview.

Per the above, Claim 1 has been amended to recite the language above and as discussed with the Examiner. Claims 2-8 ultimately depend from claim 1. Support for these amendments can be found in the original specification. No new matter has been introduced. Please note that "diffuser passage" is element "52" in the specification and "diffuser shaped portion" is element "62" in the specification.

1. Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1, 3-5 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) found on pages 3-5 of applicant's specification.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the claimed method of the present invention. The Examiner's rejections under 35 USC 102(a) are hereinafter traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Applicants' respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably distinct from that the AAPA.

First, the terms "diffuser passage" as it relates to the cooling holes 18 as well as "diffuser portion" for the electrode are used as is known in the turbine art

Amended claim 1 overcomes the prior art rejection as the prior art does not teach

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removing the coating only in the diffuser passage of a cooling hole as recited in amended claim 1. Also, amended claim 1 now recites an electrode having only a diffuser shaped portion and the step where the electrode is used to remove the coating only from the diffuser passage of the cooling hole to meet the predetermined air flow requirement. This is not taught or suggested in the prior art. Also, the "outer shaped portion" has been redefined to "diffuser passage" consistent with the specification, element 52, and thus describes the shape of the hole consistent with what is known in the turbine art.

Claims 3-5 and 8 all depend on claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons cited above in relation to claim 1.

2. Claims Rejections Under 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103

Claims 6-7 depend from amended Claim 1 and are at least allowable for the reasons cited immediately above.

3. Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 1, 3-8 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being anticipated by Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Foster et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the claimed method of the present invention. The Examiner's rejections under 35 USC 103 are hereinafter traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

First, the terms "diffuser passage" as it relates to the cooling holes 18 as well as "diffuser portion" for the electrode are used as is known in the turbine art

Amended claim 1 overcomes the prior art rejection as the prior art does not teach removing the coating only in the diffuser passage of a cooling hole as recited in amended claim 1. Also, amended claim 1 now recites an electrode having only a diffuser shaped portion and the step where the electrode is used to remove the coating only from the diffuser passage of the cooling hole to meet the predetermined air flow requirement. This is not taught or suggested in the prior art. Also, the "outer shaped portion" has been

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redefined to "diffuser passage" consistent with the specification, element 52, and thus describes the shape of the hole consistent with what is known in the turbine art.

Claims 3-8 all depend on claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons cited above in relation to claim 1.

4. Allowable Subject Matter - Newly Added Claim 9

In the Office Action dated October 30, 2006, the Examiner indicated the allowability of claim 2 if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Newly added claim 9 is claim 2 rewritten per the Examiner's instructions.

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Summary

After careful consideration of the Examiner's Office Action as well as discussions with the Examiner, the present application has been amended to overcome all of the rejections. In light of Applicants' amendments and accompanying remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims 1-9 are allowable over the applied references as well as the prior art made of record. Allowance of claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

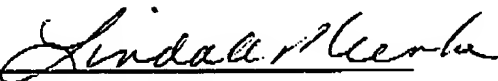
Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment introduces no new issues which have not been previously been considered and is appropriate for entry. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the reference application and entry of this amendment.

The Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite any further issues or concerns.

Please charge any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, to Deposit Account No. 21-0279, Docket Number EH-10485.

Respectfully submitted,

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